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R Newsletter

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ESTABLISHES RURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

A Rural Development Service, under the direction of Dr. Henry L. Ahlgren, has been established, effective Sept. 3, by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin.

Ahlgren, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, will report directly to the Secretary.

Secretary Hardin said the response had been favorable to his proposal to establish the service, as announced in May.

The service, he said, would "assume all functions now performed by the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, and, in addition, upon enactment of the proposed legislation, carry out all functions under the rural community development revenue sharing program, with the exception of the audit function which will be assigned to the Office of the Inspector General."

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED THROUGH USDA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

A nationwide environmental campaign designed to lend increased support to community groups and leaders was launched in September by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin.

In a memorandum issued to all U. S. Department of Agriculture employees, located in more than 3,000 counties in the United States, Secretary Hardin said the Department of Agriculture would "lend all possible support to individuals, civic and service clubs, development committees, and local, county, and State governments in pursuing activities, projects, and programs whose goals are to reverse the trend of greater and greater degradation of our environment."

In a leaflet issued at the same time, the Secretary urged local citizens with questions or a specific project in mind to get in touch with their nearest USDA rural development committee through either the county agricultural extension agent or local office of a USDA agency.

Explanatory leaflets are available at such local offices or by writing the Editor, Rural Development Newsletter, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Handbooks describing potential services and projects are available in USDA and Extension offices.

USDA REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON WORK
ACCOMPLISHED IN STATES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The varied and extensive assistance provided by U. S. Department of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service personnel in rural development at State and local levels is highlighted in reports made to Congress in September.

One report covers information and technical assistance, another, submitted by USDA in coordination with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, covers assistance furnished nonmetropolitan planning and development districts.



These are two of four reports required by Title IX of the Agricultural Act of 1970 and cover the fiscal year that ended June 30. Another, submitted by the White House, deals with the location of Federal facilities in areas or communities of lower population density. A report dealing with government services to rural areas is to be submitted by the White House.

The information and technical assistance report cites several particular instances of service. It notes, for instance, that

USDA agencies helped communities develop more than 2,800 projects dealing with health or welfare. Among them, farm laborers in a migrant labor camp in Somerset County, Maryland, received training in adult basic education and in four skill areas. A child care center for migrant children was funded by the Maryland Council of Churches and operated for eight weeks in the camp.

In presenting the Federal facilities report to Congress, President Nixon noted that during the period covered by the report (November 30, 1970 to June 30, 1971), more than 60 percent of all Federal workers placed in newly located activities were employed in areas of low population density.

A limited number of the three reports already submitted are available in single copies by writing the Editor, Rural Development Newsletter, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

REGIONAL CENTERS TO COORDINATE
RESEARCH IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Research centers to coordinate research in rural development have been created at Iowa State University in Ames and at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Established by mutual agreement among State agricultural experiment stations, 13 in the case of the North Central Regional Center in Iowa, and 12 in the case of Western Region Area Development Center in Oregon, the centers will utilize advisory committees in coordinating research. Membership of the committees will include experiment station, Extension and public agency leaders.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCTOBER 3-9.

USDA SEEKS GREATER ROLE FOR YOUTH IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT LOCAL LEVEL

Each agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been asked to find out from youth in their local communities:

1. Those successful community development programs and projects in which youth are now involved.
2. Those activities in which youth can or want to participate.
3. The best ways for youth to become involved in community development projects.

Agency findings are to be summarized by Dec. 15 and sent to the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development.



A Secretary's Memorandum noted that "As the Department continues to face new challenges on rural development, there is an urgency to explore new alternatives for involvement of youth in these programs."

PRESIDENT NIXON WELCOMES NEW COALITION FOR RURAL AMERICA

When a new Coalition for Rural America organized in Washington, D. C. Sept. 7, President Nixon sent welcoming greetings by way of Secretary of Agriculture Hardin.

"This Administration is fully committed to a massive effort in developing and enhancing rural life," the President said.

A bipartisan board of directors elected former Kentucky governor Edward T. Breathitt, chairman, and former Nebraska governor Norbert T. Tiemann, president, of the coalition.

Tiemann said the advocacy group would be active in three areas at the outset: (1) investment tax credit to encourage rural industrial development, (2) improved availability of rural credit, and (3) public works and economic development legislation.

MISSOURI RENTAL UNITS TOP 1,000

Missouri was the first State to pass 1,000 in the number of nonprofit rental units built through Farmers Home Administration financing. Typical:

LaPlata, where a loan was recently announced for nine 4-plex buildings totaling 36 one-bedroom units, with tenants to range in age from 64 to 91 years, and cost per-unit less than \$9,000.

FHA officials credited aggressive local leadership in adapting the Federal credit program to the needs of the elderly and others in the community whose circumstances might not permit home ownership.



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SMALL CITIES TRY HARDER

Last year the Texas Industrial Commission (TIC) initiated a computer program whereby all Texas towns and cities were asked to fill out exhaustive Questionnaires regarding all types of local data. TIC reports that 380 or 77 percent of the towns that submitted data for the computer program were under 12,000 population. Sixteen percent were under 4,000 and 66 percent were under 8,000.

PLAN AHEAD

Why should a community plan? James (Bud) Edgerton, Extension area resource development specialist, answers this way in a Vermont newsletter: "We plan to meet events we expect to happen, to accomplish things we want to happen, and to avoid things we don't want to happen."

BANKERS' GUIDE LISTS PROGRAMS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A guide to nearly 500 Federal assistance programs for development of rural communities has been published by the Independent Bankers Association of America. Written in layman's language, the guide is available for perusal at member banks where single copies may be ordered for \$8.95.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tennessee reports that most of the 145 new industry locations and 212 industry expansions in the State in 1970 took place in small towns and rural areas. They supplied 28,882 jobs.